

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 32-66 are currently being prosecuted. Claims 32 and 56 are amended, and claim 66 is added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his election of species requirement in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

ELECTION OF CLAIMS

The Examiner has set forth an election of species requirement with regard to claims 32-65. The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>FIGURE</u>
A	FIG. 2a and 2b
B	FIG. 3a and 3b
C	FIG. 5

The Examiner states that at least claim 57 is generic.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's election of species requirement, the Applicants have elected SPECIES A, claims 32-35 and 57-66, and FIGS. 2a and 2b for initial examination. However, it is respectfully submitted that the election of species requirement is improper in view of the fact that a reasonable number of species are set forth in the present application.

*Application No. 09/863,406
Reply dated January 4, 2006
Reply to Election of Species Requirement of October 4, 2005*

*Docket No. 1291-0183P
Art Unit: 3743
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If the Examiner does persist in his election of species requirement, the Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected claims at a later date if they so desire.

In addition, the Examiner is advised that claims 32 and 56 are amended herein merely to place them in better form.

Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

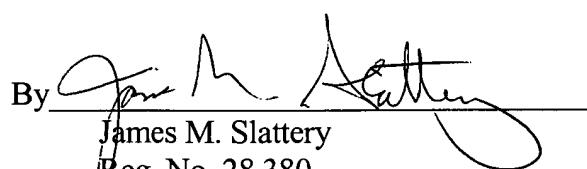
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$450 is being filed concurrently herewith.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Respectfully submitted,

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